

# INFORMATION REPORT

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**SUPPLEMENT TO  
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At about 2 p.m. on 10 April 1953, six Soviet warships, which flew the Soviet war ensign, were about 9 seamiles northwest of Kahlberg lighthouse (54°23'N/19°27'E) in the gulf of Danzig. They came from a northeasterly direction, proceeded in line abreast and, after approaching [ ] up to about 3,500 meters, they turned off, reversing course to the northeast, having been in sight for about 2 hours. They were identified as minesweepers, towing undetermined minesweeping equipment, were about 60 meters long, had an entire foredeck up to the bridge, a comparatively low-sided afterdeck, a short raking smokestack with a black smoke hood, developing very thin smoke, a signal mast at the after end of the bridge with flag signals at the yards, [ ] and had one gun on the foredeck, one on the afterdeck and several AA guns.

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2. At about 2 p.m. on 10 April 1953, six warships steaming about 225° were sighted about 13 seamiles north-northwest from Kahlberg on the salmon fishing grounds in the Gulf of Danzig. They proceeded in line abreast at an approximate speed of 5 knots and approached the fishing ground up to about 1,800 meters. They towed a sweeping equipment, which had the shape of a thick rope and, possibly, was a cable and subsequently reversed course, maintaining formation.

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the lines were subsequently in tow again. The boats carried a black ball at the signal yard and a red pennant at the masthead of the signal mast. were about 50 to 60 meters long, had a short and thick smokestack projecting a little over the bridge superstructure, an armament which included one shield-protected gun of about 25 mm caliber on the foredeck, a similar gun on the fantail and one 40 mm gun on each side of the bridge structure, and had a paravane at the bows and a recovery winch on the fantail. Their stern was a little lower in the water than the forward section of the fantail and was fitted with a high iron beam. They proceeded in company at slow speed developing practically no smoke, were carefully painted and gave the impression of streamlined, slender craft. There was good visibility, a north-northeasterly wind blowing force 3 and slight sea during the period of observation which ended at 3:30 p.m.<sup>1</sup>

After about 3 p.m. on 13 April 1952, source saw a group of three vessels including a lead vessel, about 100 meters long and, a little later, a tug towing a target with a very long tow rope, coming from the west and steering an easterly course. The large warship had a thick smokestack with a mast forward. The target-towing vessel was a small harbor tug. The target was about 30 meters long and 5 or 6 meters

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## CLASSIFICATION

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high and was towed by a tow-rope about 1,500 meters long. The target structure was covered with a red-brown canvas sheet. The three vessels forming the group steered an easterly course for about an hour, then reversed course and were lost sight of in about the direction from which they had appeared. They were sighted again on the salmon fishing ground at about 1 p.m. on 16 April 1953. The large vessel circled around the target-towing tug in a manner which, source believed, was for aiming exercises. Shortly after 2 p.m., the vessel disappeared again. On 17 April 1953, they reappeared about 5 seamiles from source's ship. The large vessel which had two medium-caliber guns on the foredeck and two similar guns on the afterdeck and, source thought, was a destroyer, made a run from a distance of about 5 seamiles on a westerly course firing about 20 rounds of five rounds on the target, while the tug, with the target in tow, kept on moving, proceeding at slow speed. No details of the target exercise could be observed, as source's ship was about 5 seamiles east from the place. Source estimated that the target was about 5 seamiles south of the destroyer and the target was within about 5 seamiles from the lagoon peninsula. The vessels which came in sight at about 3 p.m., disappeared again in a westerly direction at 5 p.m., after finishing the firing exercise.

At about 3 p.m. on 13 April 1953, a warship and a tug towing targets appeared from a westerly direction in the salmon fishing grounds. The warship was a destroyer or painted dark-gray and had a thick smokestack, two superimposed guns on the foredeck and two similar guns on the afterdeck. The target-towing tug was a conventional small harbor tug. The two vessels carried the Polish war ensign. The target was a floating structure between 40 and 50 meters long covered with red-brown canvas. The two vessels reversed course at about 4 p.m. They were sighted again 8 seamiles northwest from Kahlberg at about 11 a.m. on 18 April 1953, when the destroyer and the tug and target appeared from a westerly direction. While the tug and the target remained near the salmon fishing ground, the destroyer continued on a northeasterly course. Numerous persons, presumably solash spotters, were on the bridge of the tug. The target, which was towed at a distance of about 1,500 meters from the tug, rested on two round longitudinal floats held together by cross beams and showed five vertical fields made of red-brown canvas. The destroyer made her first run on an easterly course starting from a position north of the target about 8 seamiles off and firing four salvoes, and made a second run on a westerly course firing also four salvoes from her four guns. The results were as follows:

Runs	Salvo	Solashes
1st run	1st salvo	about 80 meters short
	2d salvo	almost straddling
	3d salvo	over
	4th salvo	over
	5th salvo	about 150 meters short
2d run	1st salvo	about 80 meters short
	2d salvo	about 80 meters short
	3d salvo	about 80 meters short
	4th salvo	about 80 meters short
	5th salvo	about 80 meters over

After the last salvo, the destroyer continued on a westerly course followed by the tug and disappeared at about 2 p.m. During the firing exercise, no other ship approached the target-towing tug up to about 700 meters. The firing area was not guarded and the numerous craft assembled in the exercise area were not mentioned.

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[REDACTED]

5. Soviet minesweeper [REDACTED] towing a paravane, and with about 36 crew members on deck was on a westerly course north of Kahlberg at about 3 p.m. on 14 April 1953 and sighted again northwest of Pillau at about 6:30 a.m. on 16 April 1953 as she proceeded on a westerly course and reversed course to the east, with her paravane brought out. At 6:30 p.m. on 16 April 1953, when [REDACTED] ship came to an anchor northwest of Pillau, about 10 detonations, which, source believed, came from depth bombs, were heard, but no vessels were seen. Three minesweepers appeared at about 7:15 p.m. No details were identified.
6. A Polish examination vessel, observed in the fishing ground on 17 April 1953, was a tug, about 30 meters long, with a high forecastle, one smokestack and one mast, and had a heavy machine gun on the forecastle. The vessel which flew the Polish flag went close to the shore near the village of Warmen lagoon to tow off a Polish fishing cutter aground there.
7. Soviet minesweeper [REDACTED] was sighted off Neukrug at 2 p.m. on 22 April 1953, as she headed 240° and changed and reversed course a little later. When about a seamile from the fishing lines laid by the fishermen, she lowered a boat manned by 11 men to take away the salmon caught. After hoisting in her boat, she laid a smoke screen and followed in the wake of [REDACTED]. At 3 p.m., she turned away, changing course to 50°.
8. At 11 a.m. on 7 May 1953 six Soviet minesweepers were about 8 seamiles north-northwest of Kahlberg, cruising in company. They came from a northeasterly direction and approached [REDACTED] up to about 3,000 meters proceeding in line abreast and steering about 230°. They subsequently changed course to the northwest, about 300°, and later reversed course to about 45°. While turning to the northwesterly course, they changed from line abreast to line ahead and, when changing course again from northwest to northeast, they resumed line abreast. When cruising in line abreast, they were about 300 meters apart on beam. Their intervals in line ahead could not be identified. They had no sweeping equipment brought out. They proceeded at a speed estimated of about 15 knots. They developed either no smoke, or a light yellowish thick smoke alternating with dark and black smoke. [REDACTED] They were about 50 meters long and painted dark gray and had a short, thick smokestack [REDACTED]. Their smokestacks were a little higher than their bridge superstructures. Their signal mast with a signal yard and a gaff was aft of the bridge. Their foredeck was slightly raised and their fantail was long and unencumbered. They had one gun on the foredeck. During their maneuvers, a large warship was looming north almost below the horizon. The glare of the midday-sun, gave [REDACTED] the impression that this vessel was a huge ship with a high conning tower. She came from the direction of the minesweeping group and turned off on the opposite course together with them.
9. [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED] Comment. This vessel probably was Polish destroyer **ELYSKANICA**.
11. [REDACTED]

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